

FOREWORD

Welcome to Acadia National Park A Letter from the Park Superintendent

Dear Guide User,

You are an important partner of the National Park Service. The *Guide's Guide* helps meet the standards set forth in the Commercial Services Plan by providing you with a better understanding of Acadia's resources, significance, and need for low impact visits. Some visitors discover Acadia on their own, while others do so with an organized group—either private or commercial. Because of the large number of commercial users in and around Acadia, park managers request that commercial activities contribute to the sustainability of park resources, enhance educational opportunities, and offer quality interpretation. The Commercial Services Plan, available on our website (www.nps.gov/acad, under “Commercial Business Permits”), outlines many other objectives and requirements for commercial users.

Whether you are a bus tour guide searching for more specific information, a supervisor training staff to work with visitors, or a business owner needing park information to answer customer questions, the *Guide's Guide* will provide you with the tools to:

- Impart to visitors the primary purpose of Acadia National Park.
- Understand some of the unique natural and historical aspects of Acadia.
- Deliver accurate information to improve interpretation to visitors using commercial services.
- Magnify the impact of park conservation messages.
- Apply *Leave No Trace* principles in each park area.

Please familiarize yourself with Chapter One before beginning the rest of the *Guide's Guide*. We hope this material will be part of an effective trip to Acadia National Park. Whatever your intent—exploring habitats of ecological importance, reflecting on historical events of both local and national value, or simply enjoying the exceptional opportunities for inspiration and recreation—your efforts to further the park's mission with your group assure the continued protection of Acadia as a national treasure. Thank you for your cooperation. Enjoy the park!

Sincerely,



Sheridan Steele
Park Superintendent